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KNIGHT 4/2 WA WITH SCHWARTZ 275A

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID SATURDAY NIGHT THAT IF PASSPORT OFFICE DIRECTOR FRANCES KNIGHT HAD A "SCRAMBLER" TELEPHONE TIE LINE TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) IT WAS WITH THE PERMISSION OF HER STATE DEPARTMENT SUPERIORS.

THE SPOKESMAN, JOSEPH REAP, WAS ASKED ABOUT A PUBLISHED REPORT THAT MISS KNIGHT HAD ORDERED THE PHONE INSTALED IN VIOLATION OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM HER SUPERIORS.

REAP REFUSED TO DISCOUSS THE DEPARTMENT'S CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS.

"HOWEVER," HE SAID, "ANY SUCH DEVICE OPERATING IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS IN FULL ACCORD WITH HIGHER AUTHORITY."

THE PASSPORT OFFICE FREQUENTLY NEEDS AND OBTAINS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION FROM THE CIA.

A DIRECT LINE TO THE CIA FROM MISS KNIGHT'S OFFICE WAS REPORED TO HAVE BEEN REMOVED SEVERAL YEARS AGO ON ORDERS OF ABBAP. SCHWARTZ, FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY-CONSULAR CHIEF. SCHWARTZ RESIGNED RECENTLY AFTER HIS JOB WAS SLATED TO BE ABOLISHED IN A STATE DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION. HE AND OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD MISS KNIGHT INFORMATION TO AND FROM HER HAD TO BE CHANNELED THROUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH BUREAU.